

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A web server for information retrieval, comprising:
 - a. a bus;
 - b. information storage accessible through the bus and containing stored information;
 - c. a network interface connected to the bus; and
 - d. a processor connected to said bus, said processor configured to receive non-predetermined search queries submitted by ~~from~~ a client over said network interface, to process the search queries against the stored information, and to provide a list of terms used in the search queries presented over a period of time, wherein the list of terms are selectively added to the stored information against which the search queries are processed.
2. (Previously Presented) The web server of claim 1 in which a term to be selectively added is added to a document or file as a meta-tag.
3. (Previously Presented) The web server of claim 2 in which a term to be selectively added is also added to an inverted index.
4. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval system, comprising:

a. a network connected to a plurality of users; and

~~b. a plurality of users connected to said network; and~~

[c.] b. at least one web server connected to said network, said server ~~containing stored items and the stored~~ storing items in response to non-predetermined search queries ~~submitted by~~ received from the users, the server configured to provide a list of terms used in the search queries over a period of time, wherein the list of terms are selectively added to at least one of the stored items, the at least one of the stored items being selected by selections received from users using a browser.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 in which a term to be selectively added is added to a document or file as a meta-tag.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 in which a term to be selectively added is also added to an inverted index.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

a. storing a list of non-predetermined queries ~~submitted by~~ received from a client to a search engine on a website;

b. storing a list of search terms used in the queries together with frequency of occurrence of the search terms;

c. selecting at least a portion of relatively high frequency search terms
; and

d. processing each search term of the portion and selectively adding each search term to documents or files stored in the system as a meta-tag.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 in which processing each term of said portion comprises presenting the term to a user together with at least identifiers of a number of documents or files stored in said system containing said term.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 in which said processing includes presenting the term to a user together with at least portions of a document identified by one of said identifiers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which said term is presented to a user with portions of a document in a graphical user interface having a user activatable function for adding a term to said document as a meta-tag.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of providing an element for selectively adding said term to said document as a meta-tag.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of providing an element for adding information about the term added to said document as a meta-tag in an inverted index.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. storing a list of non-predetermined terms used in queries ~~submitted by received from~~ a client; ~~together with frequency of occurrence; and~~
- b. storing, with the list, a frequency of occurrence of the terms; and
- [b.] c. adding at least one term selected from the list based on frequency of occurrence to at least one document to be searched containing the term as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. generating a master term list of non-predetermined terms used in queries received from a client by the information retrieval system over a first period of time ~~and that are submitted by a client;~~
- b. generating a new term list of terms used in queries received by the information retrieval system during a later period of time which are not in the master term list; and
- c. adding, to documents stored at a web server containing the terms, the master term list and the new term list as a meta-tag.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which at least one term selected from terms from said master term list is used to identify documents or files containing said term to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which at least one term selected from terms from said master term list is used to identify only documents or files containing said term which have been created or modified since the last time the master term list was used to identify documents or files, to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which said new term database is used to identify documents or files containing said term to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. sorting non-predetermined query terms, ~~submitted by~~ received from a client and presented to the information retrieval system, by frequency of occurrence to provide a term list;
- b. eliminating noise words and stop words from the term list;
- c. selecting a portion of the term list containing the highest frequency terms;
- d. processing the highest frequency terms as candidates for inclusion in documents or files containing the terms as a meta-tag and stored at a web server; and
- e. adding the candidates to the documents or files containing the terms as a meta-tag.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of assisting a user in indexing a document created by the user, comprising:

- a. extracting non-predetermined terms used in search queries ~~submitted by~~ received from a client and presented to a search engine on a website over a period of time;
- b. presenting the extracted terms to the user;
- c. receiving a user selection of terms using a browser; and
- d. adding the received terms to a document to be searched as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in a system containing stored documents, comprising:

- a. identifying a stored document stored at a web server containing a non-predetermined term ~~submitted by~~ received from a client;
- b. determining if the stored document contains subject matter related to the term; and
- c. selectively adding the term to the document containing subject matter related to the term as a meta-tag.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an information retrieval system, comprising the steps of:

- a. extracting non-predetermined terms used in search queries ~~submitted by~~ received from a client over a period of time;

b. identifying documents or files containing at least one of said terms and stored at a web server; and

c. selectively adding said at least one of said terms to documents or files containing at least one of said terms as a meta-tag.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 in which said meta-tag is given more weight than other terms when ranking relevance of documents retrieved in response to a search query.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a. a memory medium; and

b. a computer program stored on the memory medium, the computer program comprising instructions for storing a list of non-predetermined terms used in queries together with frequency of occurrence and ~~submitted by~~ received from a client, and for adding at least one term selected from the list based on frequency of occurrence to at least one document containing the term as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a. a memory medium; and

b. a computer program stored on the memory medium, the computer program comprising instructions for generating a master term list of non-predetermined terms used in queries ~~submitted by~~ received from a client and ~~received~~ by an information retrieval system over a period of time, for generating a new term list of terms

used in queries received by the information retrieval system during a later period of time which are not in the master term list, and adding the master term list and the new term list as a source of terms to documents containing the terms as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium; and
- b. a computer program stored on ~~said~~ the memory medium, ~~said~~ the computer program comprising instructions for extracting non-predetermined terms used in search queries ~~submitted by~~ received from a client and presented to a search engine on a website over a period of time, for presenting the extracted terms to the user, for receiving a user selection of terms, and for adding the received terms to a document to be searched as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium located in a web server; and
- b. a computer program stored on ~~said~~ the memory medium, said computer program comprising instructions for extracting non-predetermined terms used in search queries ~~by~~ received from a client over a period of time, for identifying documents or files containing at least one of ~~said~~ the terms and for selectively adding said at least one of ~~said~~ the terms to said documents or files containing the at least one of ~~said~~ the terms as a meta-tag.